# January 28, 2010 meeting minutes

Cambridge GLBT Commission

### I. Call to Order

Toni Snow recorded these minutes.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u> John Gintell, Sarav Chithambaram, Jeff Walker, Toni Snow, Mal Malme, Bob Parlin, Lesley Phillips, Priscilla Lee, Tony Wieczorek, Julia Pallotta, Kevin Shpritzer, Mallory SoRelle

Commissioners Absent: Colby Berger (notified group), Richard Juang

### Guests:

Laura Waldon, U.S. Census 2010 Partner Specialist for LGBT Community in New England.

Supt. Chris Burke and Lt. Stephen Ahern, Cambridge Police Department Liaisons

- II. Motion to Accept Agenda: Passed.
- III. Motion to Accept Minutes from Nov. 19, 2009 meeting: Passed.

# IV. Updates:

- **Membership**: New commissioners Julia Pallotta, Kevin Shpritzer, and Mallory SoRelle were welcomed. Newly appointed commissioner Michael McKenzie stopped by to submit his resignation letter and express regrets that he cannot serve due to commitments as newly promoted Vice Commander with Coast Guard. In addition, the status of Richard Juang is under review due to a possible conflict of interest. Mike's resignation leaves an opening in membership; a request will be made to the City Manager to appoint the replacement.
- Attendance: A quorum of 8 members is needed for meetings. Co-chair John Gintell discussed the importance of being prompt and of regularly attending meetings. Cancellations are due 24 hours ahead of scheduled meetings.
- **2010 Agenda**: Co-chair John Gintell introduced a plan for the new year for the GLBT Commission to identify and focus on small, easily executable and trackable projects in addition to its primary topic areas of Schools, Elder issues, Police/Fire Dept trainings, Education and Publicity. Each commissioner should be engaged in 1-2 such projects. Projects in progress that fit this requirement include fire dept. training, self defense/personal safety workshop, and outreach brochure.

## V. Guest Presentation – Laura Waldon, U.S. Census 2010

The 2010 Census will be the first census where married GLBT partners will be counted as such. Ms. Waldon, partnership specialist for the Census 2010 New England GLBT community, asked for the Commission's help with her campaign to reach out to GLBT married couples and unmarried partners and their families for inclusion in this historic

Decennial Census. The count will affect House representation and could pave the way for additional changes in the 2020 Census.

In December 2009, the Cambridge City Council passed a policy order recognizing the efforts of the U.S. Census Bureau for making this important policy change. The policy order further charged the Cambridge Complete Count Committee and the Cambridge GLBT Commission to undertake suitable initiatives to ensure accurate counting of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Jeff Walker proposed that the Cambridge GLBT Commission be recognized as a Complete Count Committee. With 3 months to go before the census wraps up, we can make a significant contribution. Commission members discussed several tactics for spreading the word via the internet and City website. Ms. Waldon described funds available from the Census's Partner Support Program – up to \$3,000 – that can be used to purchase low cost give-away items (mugs, pens, shopping bags, etc.) to assist targeted outreach to the GLBT community. (The shopping bag idea was very popular and plans are underway to distribute shopping bags at an upcoming gay friendly event in March.) At the next Commission it is desired that each Commissioner speak briefly about what he/she has done to support this effort.

## VI. Additional Updates

- John G. attended a P10E meeting at CRLS at least15 students attended. Group currently meets once per month on Wed. at 3:00 p.m. Our idea of a Cambridge Student representative on our Commission is an open issue.
- John G. will look into new meeting space at Library.
- John G. attended the documentary "Straightlaced"; there were suggestions that the Commission could sponsor a viewing of it in future.
- John G. attended meeting of special Police Review committee created as a result of the Gates incident. He reviewed Commission's work with CPD and emphasized the need to review procedures and especially those relative to transgender individuals.
- John G. and Mal M. attended Transgender Lobby Day at the State House majority of legislators sponsored the Bill; passage is likely this year.
- Toni S. reported no progress yet with Fire Department and GLBT sensitivity training. Will send update via email to group when she gets it.
- Priscilla L. reported that Prospect Hill Academy is interested in networking with Commission and with GLBT community. Perhaps P10E students could visit PHA? Bob Parlin has been in contact with Paula Evans, Principal of the Cambridge Charter School and will follow up. Suggestion that we invite P10E and Charter Schools to our February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Sarav C. and Mal M. attended the Cambridge Martin Luther King Day Celebration and reported that it was good exposure for us.
- Supt. Chris Burke stated Police Commissioner Hass' support for our work and the importance of keeping an open communication link.

## VII. Announcements:

- New Human Rights Commission Executive Director, Marlissa Brigett has been hired; John G scheduled a preliminary meeting with her. HRC meetings will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. Lesley P. will represent GLBT Commission and attend meeting on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Sarav will attend a Race and Class Workshop on Friday and Saturday hosted by Councilor Simmons and The Cambridge Peace Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.